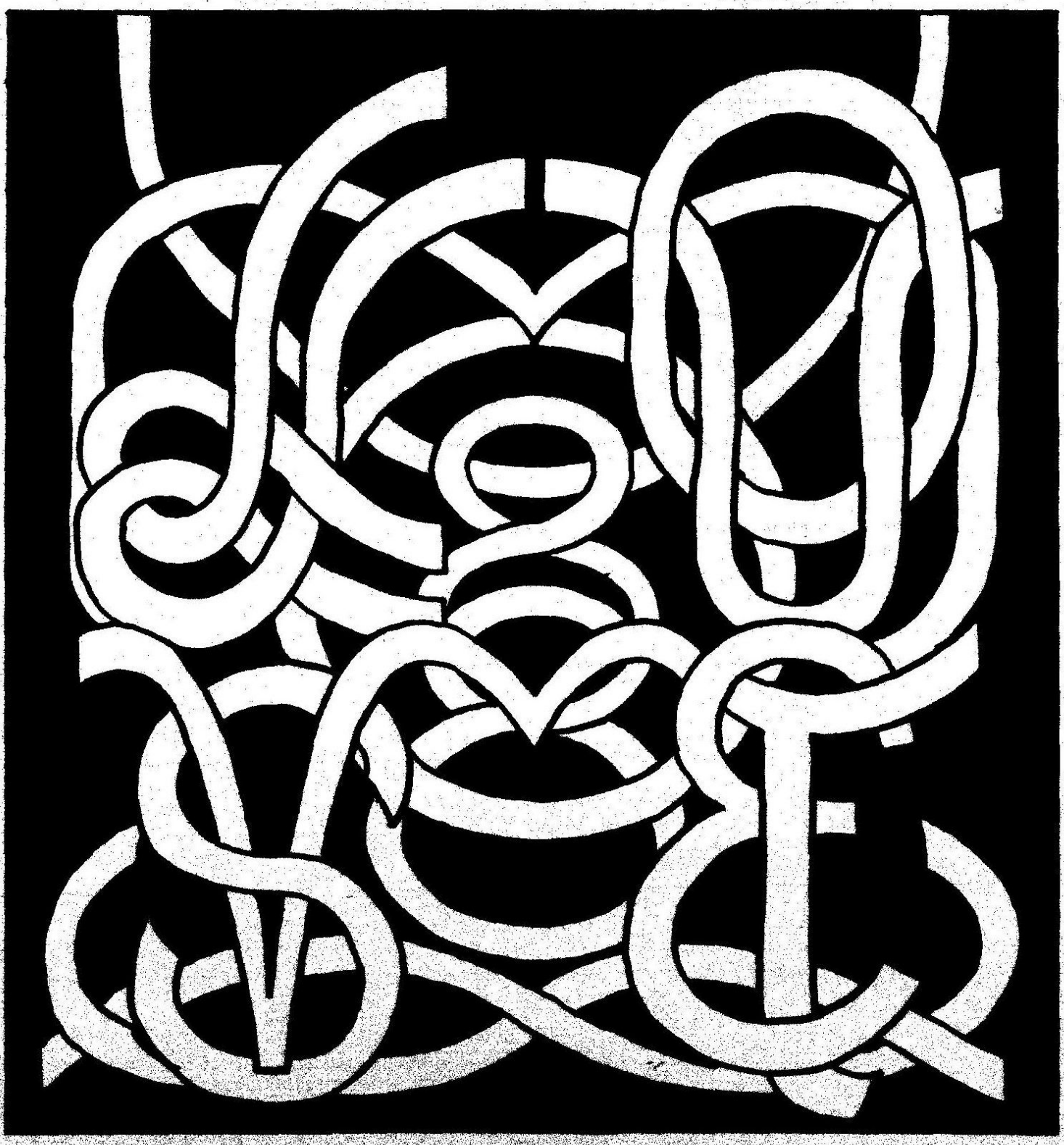
THE BI-MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Bisexual Center

Volume 4 Number 6 November-December 1980



Cover: Calligrapherotic Riddle, by Jim Barnes. Figured it out yet? No? Answer on page 7.

WANTED: After the January/February issue our editor will be leaving the newsletter. Anyone interested in taking over as editor please contact Michael Loveland, Lee Olivier or David Lourea at 922-2300.

THE BISEXUAL CENTER

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	Full-time Student
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$13-100	Contributing
$101-1000	Sustaining

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How did you hear about the Bi Center?_____

KLEINFELTER'S SYNDROME: GENETIC ANDROGYNY by D. Cameron Strachan

Four years ago today, when I was 29, I was told that I had a sex chromosome abnormality called Kleinfelter's Syndrome. At that time, I was a client in a male infertility clinic seeking a reason for having no sperm, when this syndrome was discovered. Basically, having Kleinfelter's Syndrome means I have an extra "X" sex chromosome making me an "XXY" individual. I have 47 chromosomes in my cells rather than the usual 46. It was also discovered that I had 10% of the normal amount of testosterone in my system. I was diagnosed biologically as a feminized male. Hence, a genetic androgynous creation!

I've always suspected that I was different, but not this different!!! As I recollect the earlier manifestations of this syndrome, and through verification in some of the reading I've done on the subject since, show that my body was quite "different" from other males. Kleinfelter persons are always sterile; the body build is usually feminine showing abnormal breast development; sex glands are small; tallness is usual. Needless to say, I had body image anxieties while growing up.

Before 1976, I had an incomplete male identity and an incomplete female identity. I felt caught between two images.....being both and neither at the same time. With male and female sex partners I always identified with my female counterpart, not just physically but emotionally as well.

The endocrinologist at the infertility clinic immediately put me on male hormone maintenance therapy to commence for the rest of my life. I inject 300 mg. every 2 weeks. The following 18 months was a return to puberty in every sense of the concept. I can't begin to describe my inner conflicts and physical changes during this reverse menopause era. I feel fortunate to have had a few good friends to see me through this new phase of my existence. About 2 years ago, I went through a mourning time when I literally sensed that my "female counterpart" was dying and being buried. I'm still trying to get used to the new personality that has been developing in me ever since. Today, I feel very "male" and "traditionally masculine". The sex hormone not only has transformed me physiologically (more body hair growth, full beard, muscle toning, deeper voice, increased libido and larger sex organs) but psychologically as well. I didn't realize that every brain cell would undergo a structural change, thus producing a new person. I've transformed from not feeling traditionally masculine to feeling what I conceive to be powerfully male (which I honestly believe is a negative attribute such as prescribed in this culture). My conflict now is how to redevelop an androgynous balance. I'm sort of a bionic bisexual getting another lesson from life.

Sharing all my experiences with you would take a novel form. My primary objective is to come out of another closet in an educative spirit hoping that more open sharing can take place in our changing culture as we all decide what really is "female and feminine", "masculine and male", "hetero-bi-homo", and best of all "human".

I would be interested in discovering if there are others on Planet Earth that are genetically androgynous. If so, be in touch with me.

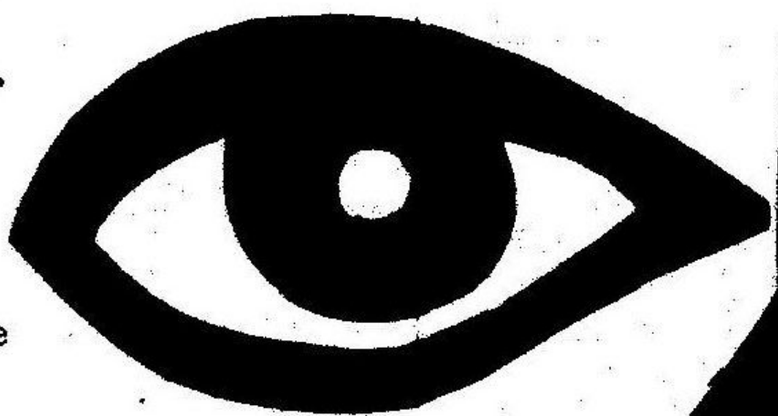
With warmth and care,

D. Cameron Strachan
459 Douglass St.
San Francisco, 94114

October 4, 1980

Open Eyes

I love those people
with open eyes
they convey
all love
with a glance
Perchance
to meet someone
new (and maybe)
experience love
or lust or
any emotion
besides these
chilling lies.
Open eyes
Open eyes
love surprise
do not ask
say it with
your open eyes
I love you.



Franklin Pierce

EROTIC ART
René Turner

Last year at about this time, I took two pieces of my work to the San Francisco Art Commission for screening for the San Francisco Art Festival, held each year outdoors in September. I arrived at the Art Commission with a drawing of a three toed sloth, and a fantasy drawing which contained a little (well, adolescent) girl peeking through plants at a forest of pink phallic "mushrooms" and pink and orange vaginally-shaped "butterflies."

I paid my $10 ($5 each piece, non-refundable) and handed in my application, then waited in line for a judge to come pick up my work to be seen by the jurors. Eventually my name was called, and I handed over my two pieces. I watched the woman who took my work walk around the corner. I listened for voices and responses. I held my breath. After a few minutes, there was an uproar in the back room, the jurying room--I knew they were looking at my "forest" piece. Obviously, they found it amusing, to say the least. The laughter died down, and I waited another five minutes. Then the same woman came around the corner carrying my work. She handed it to me and said, "We absolutely loved this one," ("forest", again) "--but this is a family show and I'm afraid we can't accept it." "What about the other one?" I asked. "Oh, nobody liked that one," was the reply. So there I was--my best work got rave reviews, but no show! The reason was, of course, that I had not left out those parts of the body that nobody likes to mention--penises and vaginas.

The reasoning appeared to be that children shouldn't look at such things, and that adults would be too upset by it ever to attend the show again if I were accepted. So, once again, it was "Love your work, but I really don't think it would go in my living room."

"Erotic" is a term that seldom fails to set people off; "erotic art" not only sets people off, but is almost a complete no-no to talk about. Why

is this? Why must artists be in the closet about some of their most interesting and best work? The answer appears to be that the Victorian era has not yet passed, and since people are not comfortable with sex, their bodies, or those of others, they are not comfortable with earthy art, with sexy art, or with any other controversial art.

Given that this is the prevailing attitude, although we prefer to think that we are more liberal than all that, it is even more difficult for an artist whose main body of work might fall into the "erotic" category to get shows and exhibitions spaces.

Examples of this prejudice abound: There are many horror stories about just what happens to erotic art which does manage to get into the public eye.

In one gallery in the east, an erotic show was raided by the police after being open less than a week, and almost half the approximately 100 works confiscated. The artists have filed a class action lawsuit against the city (it was a city councilman who got up in arms and spurred the police on to the raid,) but any action at law may take years to resolve. The raid should not have happened at all. Another large exhibition of erotic work by many well-known and famous artists was finally held in Denmark about ten years ago, after the directors of the show were turned away even in Sweden. When they finally did get museum space to show their extensive collection, the museum's board threatened to go back on their word and cancel the show, due to some sensational headlines appearing in two of the area's leading newspapers. The newspapers had evidently used some unfortunate terminology, such as "pornographic" instead of "erotic". The directors naturally did not want anything to do with "pornography".

This shows that even in such supposedly enlightened places such as Sweden and Denmark, and in the good ol' U.S.A., feelings run high and art work is in danger if the subject is at all sexual.

What can we do about it?

As far as my own work is concerned, I can keep on showing it, keep on producing it, and keep on taking it to galleries, hoping that one day someone will have the guts to give me a show to display the type of work I do best.

As for other artists, one would hope that they would do the same, and one would also hope that more artists who have given lots of closet space to their more "racy" works would bring them out into the open and incorporate them into their oeuvres. Through this, perhaps, lovers of art might learn they have nothing to fear.

(Ms. Turner is an artist living in San Francisco.)

by René Turner

Starting on November 1, 1980 the Bi Center will be showing a collection of René Turner's art.

Night Flight

To soar on gossamer wings.
To see the cities of the world
Spread across the land
like glitter.
To sample the myriad
Riches of this world,
Sweet as the nector of gods.
Free of spirit,
I roam.

Deva Loveland

Lines Inspired By Reunion

God has been king
Chief member of our trinity
In seven years inspired by His grace:
My lover's charm makes music live our fate
It casts o'er poems sweet semblances of bed
And music rebounds to us its souls
As poems enhanced promote our fair exchange.

Lovers of one another tire
But I've not known the feeling yet
Each new day together brings
A different phase of some old trait
Because there's been no idol there:
For every smile my Greek puts on
Our King smiles too
And life its meaning kisses with delight.

Leslie Shaw

Calligrapherotic Riddle (cover): The words "love" and "lust", intertwined (the letter "L" in the form of the English "pound" sign, £). Illustrates the following quote from the article "Spencer's Earthly Paradise", in Newsweek magazine, October 20, 1980, on the English artist Stanley Spencer:

"'After I married Hilda,' he wrote, 'I no longer had a clear vision of God.' His vision of sacred energies now embraced human desire; once he explained how during the war he thought 'the only way to end the ghastly experience would be if everyone suddenly decided to indulge in every degree and form of sexual love, carnal love, bestiality, anything you like to call it.'"

BI SOCIETY PAGE

Rock'N'Roll Dance Party

Wear your dancing shoes to the Bi-Center November 15 at 9:00 p.m. for a Rock'N'Roll Dance Party featuring both modern and oldies dance music from the collection of Franklin Pierce, guest D.J., spinning discs of all sorts of rock dance music from his collection. So come and shake your tail feathers or just enjoy the music.

$3.00 for members.
$4.00 for non-members.

Women's Nite at Osento

Because of the success of our ladies nite at Amelias, we are planning a second event -- Women's nite at a Hot Tub. We will be meeting at S. F. Osento, bathhouse for women, 955 Valencia Street, S.F. at 7:30 til 12:00. The cost is $4.00 and 35¢ for a towel, or bring your own.

Date: November 21st.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Join with us for a Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner at 3:30 p.m. on November 27th. Turkey and eggnog will be provided. Brink your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share.

For further information contact the Center at 922-2300.

$4.00 for members.
$5.00 for non-members and guests.

Heaven's Hot Tub Party

Heaven's Hot Tub and the Bi Center are having a no-cook pot luck and Gong Show. Get out your tap shoes, put on your tu-tu and do your thing at Heaven's Hot Tub. Call 922-2300 or 676-7140 for directions, cost and to coordinate food. Bring a towel and a friend. Date: November 29th.

Pot Luck

There will be a pot luck at the Bi Center on Saturday, December 13th starting at 7:30 p.m. Jim Barnes will be our host for an evening of sharing good food and good friends.

Cost: $3.00 for members
$4.00 for non-members.

Deck the Halls

On Friday night, December 19th, at 9:00 p.m., the Bi Center will have it's Annual Christmas Party. Bring holly for the hall, mistletoe for the doorways, or an ornament for the Christmas Tree and we'll decorate the Center. Also please bring a small present costing about $5.00, and suitable for a man or a woman for exchange of gifts. This night no financial donations will be requested.

New Years Eve

Help us bring in 1981. Last years party was a tremendous success and this years party will be even better. Bring your friends and we will party all night. For information call the Center at 922-2300.

$5.00 for members.
$6.00 for non-members & guests.
Time: 9:00 pm.

Wine and Cheese Party

Share your favorite wine and cheese for a relaxing evening of good conversation with friends, old and new, on Saturday January 3rd at 9:00 p.m.

Cost: $2.00 for members
$3.00 for non-members.

Groups & Workshops

Gestalt Seminars

The monthly Gestalt Seminars are run by Karl Anderson who is a graduate of the Gestalt Institute of San Francisco. They are of an introductory nature and are for people who have had little or no experience in a Gestalt group and want to learn more about Gestalt methods.

Dates: Thursday November 13th and Thursday December 11th.
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Cost: $2.00 for members
$3.00 for non-members.

Women's Rap Group

The Pacific Center holds a rap group for women every Wednesday begining October 29th from 7:30 to 9:30 at the Pacific Center in Berkeley. For more information call 841-6224.

Help Furnish the Center

Have you wondered why it is always 7:30 at the Bi Center? It is because our clock has died. Do you have a clock you were going to get rid of? Bring it in. We can always use a few extra pillows. Paper towels, toilet paper, plastic spoons and cups, and tea and coffee are also needed.

If you have any of these items you are not using, donate them to the Bi Center. Call 922-2300 for information.

November Apple Hill Treat
for Bi Center members

Tommie Radford, our silent friend who cooked the wonderful breakfasts on our camping trip, welcomes us to come up to the famous Apple Hill Country during any weekend in November. There is beautiful country, with fresh products such us: a variety of apples and pears, cidar, juice, carmel apple sticks, apple pies and pumpkins.

If you plan to escape to this rual country atmosphere please bring your sleeping bags and some food to share. You can get more information by picking up a brochure or calling David or Richard at the Bi Center.

Getting in Touch With Ourselves

We are having a workshop aimed at getting in touch with old programming - ideas, thoughts, reactions - that may be keeping you from expressing yourself freely and completely.

We will spend an intense day getting in touch with the ways we interrelate with others, finding the 'roots' to our actions, and looking at how we can change the things we are not satisfied with.

Led by Marilyn King and Deva Loveland.

Date: November 16th
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Place: Bi Center, 1757 Hayes, S.F.
Cost: $20.00 for members
$25.00 for non-members.

Preregistration by November 9th with $5.00 deposit.

Loving Me, Loving You

A day devoted to looking at ways to love and nurture ourselves with the idea that this will increase our openness to loving others and to letting ourselves be loved.

We will explore how blocks in our relationships are connected to our history of not being loving to ourselves. We will look at early messages we received about ourselves and about relationships and how these messages are acted out in our intimate relationships - and - how we can replace these inhibiting messages with more liberating styles of relating to ourselves and to others.

Led by Marilyn King and David Lourea.

Date: December 6th.
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Place: Bi Center, 1757 Hayes, S.F.
Cost: $20.00 for members
$25.00 for non-members.

Preregistration by November 29th with $5.00 deposit.

Community Bulletin Board

IF YA GOT IT...FLAUNT IT!

Thespians Wanted:

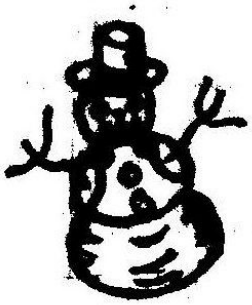
To form Drama Group. Actors, Actresses, Directors, Playwrites, ect. needed. Anyone interested in starting a theater group at the Bi Center leave a message for Daphne at the Center - 922-2300.

OFFICE HOURS

The Bi Center is open to the public on Tuesday nights, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm and Thursday nights, from 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Give us a call, or stop by, look the place over and get acquainted. Our phone number is 922-2300.

Winter Wonderland

Be on the lookout in the next newsletter for details regarding nine days at Donner Pass, January 30th through February 8th. Mark your calendar for this really special event.



Tuesday & Wednesday Night Rap

Anyone who has attended the Wednesday night drop-in rap group, lately, knows that it has grown to huge proportions. Usually thirty five to forty people show up and we divide into two to four groups and discuss such topics as: Coming out, Intimacy, Jealousy, Romantic Love, Ways of relating to the same and other sex, Ways to say no, etc.

While a room overflowing with women and men can be a delight, it isn't the most condusive to discussing concerns about bisexuality. As an alternative to knocking out the walls, we've decided to schedule two nights for the drop-in rap group. Starting September 2nd there will be both a Tuesday and a Wednesday night drop-in rap group each week. The time will stay 7:30 - 10:00. Please be on time.

We receive numerous requests for speakers and media interviews. If you are interested in being part of this activity, you can contact Doug Friedman at 929-0671 or 929-8867.

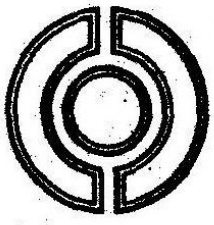
BI-MONTHLY CALENDAR 1980

nov.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4 TUES NITE RAP 7:30	5 WED NITE RAP 7:30	6	7	8
9	10 BI CENTER BOARD MEETING 7:30 pm	P.10 11	P.10 12	P.9 13 GESTALT SEMINAR 7:30	14	15 ROCK AND ROLL PARTY P.8 9-12 PM
GETTING 16 IN TOUCH WITH OURSELVES 9:30-6 P.9	17	18	19	20	WOMENS 21 NITE AT OSENTO 7:30 P.8	22
23 / 30	24	25	26	27 THANKSGIVING DINNER 3:30 P.8	28	HEAVENS 29 HOT TUB POT LUCK AND GONG SHOW P.8

dec.

	1	2	3	4	5	Loving Me, 6 Loving You 9:30-6:00 P.9
7	8 BI CENTER BOARD MEETING 7:30 pm	9	10	11 GESTALT SEMINAR 7:30 P.9	12	P.8 POT 13 LUCK AT CENTER 7:30
14	15	16	17	18	XMAS 19 PARTY 9 PM P.8	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	NEW 31 YEARS EVE PARTY 9PM P.8	JAN. 1	2	WINE 3 AND CHEESE PARTY P.8 9 PM



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